

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
Enhanced Camp and Transition Project (\$1,485,000 grant)

This project is comprised of three components – a comprehensive assessment process, expanded in-custody mental health/rehabilitative services, and family-centered transitional services and aftercare linkages – all of which are anchored in evidence-based practices.

Mental Health Assessment: Clinical staff at the Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall is administering the Voice Diagnostic Interview Schedule for Children (V-DISC), a screening instrument that helps define psychiatric diagnoses and more clearly identify youth's strengths and weaknesses, as well as additional psychological assessments as needed. The results, coupled with risk and needs assessments conducted by probation staff, are shared with a multi-disciplinary treatment team that develops and coordinates a case plan so that the youth may be assigned to the most appropriate camp or residential facility in the community. It is anticipated that 900 youth a year will receive the in-depth mental health assessment.

In-Custody Services: This component involves the provision of evidence-based mental health treatment interventions and psychotropic medications at Camp Rockey, which is in the eastern region of the county. Interventions provided by a multi-disciplinary team include behavior modification and life skills training three times a week, and specialized cognitive behavioral training for youth with exposure to trauma and symptoms consistent with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Families and caregivers play a pivotal role in all aspects of the youths' treatment.

Aftercare Services: Deputy probation officers (DPO) and clinical staff work with the youth and their families, prior to release from the camp, in developing an aftercare plan that includes linkages to existing treatment programs, including Wraparound Services, Multi-Systemic Therapy and/or Functional Family Therapy, depending on the needs of the youth and his/her family. After the initial linkage has been established, a DPO continues to serve as liaison between the youth/family and community service providers for nine to 12 months in order to ensure a successful transition.

The county anticipates that up to 125 youth will receive in-custody and aftercare services during the 18-month grant period.

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